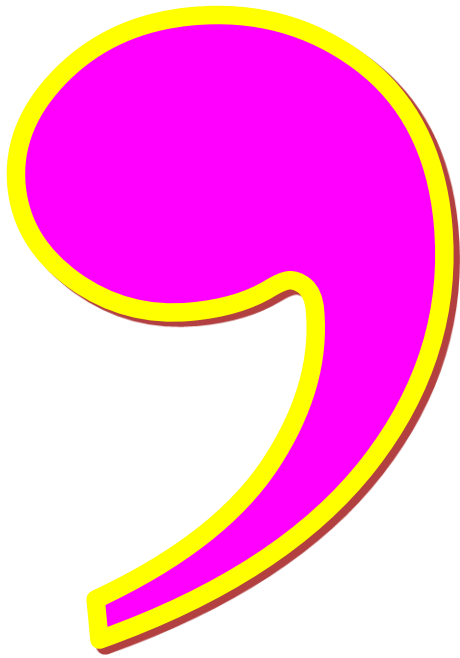


Conquering the Comma



What is a Comma?



- A comma is a punctuation mark that indicates a pause is needed in a sentence.
- Commas help to clarify meaning for the reader.

**I like
cooking my family
and my pets.**

**Use commas.
Don't be a psycho.**



ATTENTION

**Toilet
ONLY
for
DISABLED
ELDERLY
PREGNANT
CHILDREN**

THANK YOU for shopping with us!!!



Church Of
The Cross

DONT LET WORRIES
KILL YOU
LET THE CHURCH
HELP

United Methodist Church

InnocentEnglish.com

Class of 2013


homecoming idea

10 minutes ago · ⚙️


don't wear black people

Like · Comment

 2 people like this.

 WHAT????!!!!!!!

8 minutes ago · Like

 Ladies amd gentlemen, this is why commas are a huge benefit to the English language.

8 minutes ago · Unlike ·  11

Let's eat Grandpa!
Let's eat, Grandpa!

COMMAS

They save lives!

Clauses and Phrases

- A **clause** is a group of words that contains both a subject and a verb that complement (complete) each other.
- A **phrase** is a group of words that does not contain a subject or a verb that complement (complete) each other.

Sentence Structure: Dependent Clause

- A **dependent clause** contains a subject and verb, but the clause cannot stand independently.
- Dependent clauses can often be identified by the use of dependent clause markers.
- Some dependent clause markers:
 - because**
 - since**
 - when**
 - while**
 - until**
 - if**
 - as**
 - though**
 - although**
 - unless**
 - after**
 - before**
 - once**
 - whether**

Sentence Structure: Introductory Clause

- When the phrase or clause comes at the beginning of the sentence, the comma goes after the phrase or clause.

phrase S V

Before the test, Dan struggled with his

 Conj. S V

homework, so his father helped him.

Introductory Clause

- Where would you place the comma in the following example?

S V

Because it was raining we decided to go to the movies.

Introductory Clause

- Where would you place the comma in the following example?

Introductory clause S V

Because it was raining, we decided to go to the movies.

Dependent Clause at end of sentence

When a dependent clause is

At the end,

Do Not place a comma between the two.

S V

We **decided** to go to the movies **because** we were bored.

Dialogue

- A comma is used before (or after) a quotation, as in dialogue.

Ex) My brother yelled, "I'll race you home."

Ex) "Okay," I hollered back.

Essential and Non-essential Phrases and Clauses

- An **essential clause** or phrase is used to modify a noun.
- It also adds information that is critical to the meaning of the sentence.
- Essential clauses are NOT set off by commas.

S essential phrase V

The people who work in my office are loud.

Sentence Structure: Essential Phrases and Clauses

- The word “that” is almost always an indicator of an essential phrase or clause.

S

Essential

V

The pizza that I had at Joe's was great.

Sentence Structure: Nonessential Phrases & Clauses

- A **non-essential phrase** or clause adds extra information to a sentence.
- This information can be eliminated from the sentence without jeopardizing the meaning of the sentence.
- Always place commas around non-essential phrases and clauses.

Sentence Structure: Nonessential Phrases & Clauses

- Even without the phrase the sentence still makes sense: My brother plans to throw a party.

S

non-essential

V

My brother, who lives across town, plans to throw a party.

Sentence Structure: Nonessential Phrases & Clauses

- Use commas to set off additional information.

S V

Steve said that he would propose to me on

non-essential

Valentine's Day, which is my favorite holiday.

Comma Practice

- Would you place commas in the following sentences? If so, where?

I am planning a trip to Paris which is one of the greatest cities in the world.

The place that I would most like to see is the Eiffel Tower.

Pierre, who is one of my business contacts, will meet me at the airport.

Sentence Structure: Commas in a Series

- Place commas in a sentence to divide items in a list.
 - The commas will help the reader to avoid confusion.
 - The comma before the conjunction is generally required, but it can be omitted if there is no possibility of confusion.
- Always use commas before conjunctions in the middle of the sentence (,so ,and ,but ,or , etc.)

Sentence Structure: Commas in a Series

Consider the difference in the following:

Last month, Alex dated Mary Ann Lee and Kim.

Last month, Alex dated Mary, Ann, Lee, and Kim.

Last month, Alex dated Mary Ann, Lee, and Kim.

How many women did Alex date?

Sentence Structure: Commas in a Series

- Commas should be placed in series of words, phrases, or clauses.
- Place commas in the following sentences:

Martina brushed her hair put on her pajamas, and went to bed.

She fell asleep and dreamed that she was a princess she kissed a frog and she rescued her prince.

Commas with Adjectives

- Use commas to separate adjectives that provide an equal description of a noun.

The Test:

Can you put “and” between the adjectives?

Can they be described in reverse order?

If so, use a comma.

big blue house | three hungry kittens | a cranky, bald man

Compound Sentence and comma splice

- A sentence that contains two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction is called a **compound sentence**.
- A conjunction joins words, phrases, and clauses together in a sentence.
- Conjunctions
 - for
 - and
 - nor
 - but
 - or
 - yet
 - so

FANBOYS

Sentence Structure: Compound Sentences

- The comma in a compound sentence is placed before the coordinating conjunction.

S V Conj. S V
Andy built a snowman, and Jeff played
with his dog.

Sentence Structure: Compound Sentence

Where would you place the comma in the following sentence?

S

V

S

Dan struggled with his homework so his father

V

helped him.

A Common Error: The Comma Splice

- A comma splice is an error in which two independent clauses are joined by a comma.

S V

Dan struggled with his homework, his

S V

father helped him.

To Correct a Comma Splice

- Insert a conjunction between the two independent clauses.
- Start a new sentence.
- Insert a semi-colon between the two independent clauses (only in cases where the independent clauses are closely related in topic).

To Correct a Comma Splice

S

V

Conj.

Dan struggled with his homework, so his

S

V

father helped him.

To Correct a Comma Splice

S V

Dan struggled with his homework. His

S V

father helped him.

To Correct a Comma Splice

S V

Dan struggled with his homework; his

S V

father helped him.

Comma Splice Practice

- How would you correct the following?

This semester I am taking calculus physics and economics.

Calculus is my best subject, I am certain I will get an A.

Although I am very busy, I still find time to have fun.

Last weekend my brother visited me and we went to a football game a party and a rock concert.

Semicolons

Use a semi-colon to separate independent clauses not joined by a conjunction. You cannot have a semi-colon AND a conjunction.

Ex) My science class is third hour; it is my favorite class.

Semicolons

Use a semicolon to separate independent clauses if they are joined by conjunctive adverbs, such as however, also, besides, indeed, in fact, otherwise, furthermore, etc.

Ex) We want to come to your party; however, Mary has a bad cold.

Ex) We want to come to your party; Mary, however, has a bad cold.

Homework

- Make 5 sentences using dependent clause markers
- Make 2 sentences with essential clause
- Make 2 sentences with non-essential clause using commas

Additional Help

- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>